

of mischief . . . [who] do make all things
 dear to the
 buyers, and yet wonderful vile and of small
 price to
 many that must needs set or sell that which
 is their own
 honestly come by "—were pilloried by Lever.¹⁰

Nicholas

Heming, whose treatise on *The Lawful Use*
of Riches
 became something like a standard work,
 expounded the
 doctrine of the just price, and swept
 impatiently aside
 the argument which pleaded freedom of
 contract as an
 excuse for covetousness : " Cloake the
 same by what
 title you liste, your synne is excedyng
 greate.

He which hurteth but one man is in a
 damnable case ;
 what shall bee thought of thee, whiche
 bryngest whole
 householdes to their graves, or at the leaste
 art a meanes
 of their extreame miserie ? Thou maiest
 finde shiftes
 to avoide the danger of men, but assuredly
 thou shalte
 not escape the judgements of God." ⁿ Men
 eminent

among Anglican divines, such as Sandys
 and Jewel,
 took part in the controversy on the
 subject of usury.
 A bishop of Salisbury gave his blessing to
 the book of
 Wilson ; an archbishop of Canterbury
 allowed Mosse's
 sharp *Arraignment* to be dedicated to
 himself; and
 a clerical pamphleteer in the seventeenth
 century
 produced a catalogue of six bishops and
 ten doctors
 of divinity—not to mention numberless
 humbler
 clergy—who had written in the course of the
 last hun-

dred years on different aspects of the sin
of extortion
in all its manifold varieties.³⁸ The subject
was still
a favourite of the ecclesiastical orator. The
sixteenth-
century preacher was untrammelled by the
convention
which in a more fastidious age was to
preclude as an
impropriety the discussion in the pulpit of
the problems
of the market-place. " As it belongeth to
the magis-
trate to punishe," wrote Heming, "so it is
the parte
of the preachers to reprove usurie. . . .
First, they
should earnestly inveigh against all
unlawfull and
wicked contractes Let them ... amend
all manifest
errours in bargaining by ecclesiasticall
discipline.
Then, if they cannot reforme all abuses
which they